SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

INTERVIEWERS

From the N. Y. Times. It is rather dismal to think that there is, after all, nothing new under the sun, but it is greatly to be feared that it is true. When President Lincoln was informed by an interviewer of the period that one of his Generals took too much whisky, he archly expressed the wish that somebody would send a barrel of the same sort to divers other of the commanders. We all hoped that the witticism was original. But, alas, Charles II had said something very like it before. Dryden tells ns, apropos of his indecent play of Evening Love, the plot of which he took from Calderon, that some one accused him to the King of plagiarism, but that the monarch "only desired that they who accused me of theft would always steal him plays like mine." We fear, too, that the "interviewers" have been heard of before, and that, like many words and phrases branded by some of our English cousins as "Americanisms," but which are to be found even in such well-known pages as those of Shakespeare and Chaucer, interviewing is no thing of modern growth, but

Claims the reverence due to antiquity.

Whan we say that two of our late Presidents were killed by interviewers, we are apt to think that great men were never before slain by such a cause, and that the cases of Harrison and Taylor are unique in history. But probably Alexander the Great saw his convivial interviewers too often, and there is not the least doubt that the interview of L. Q. Flaminius with the King of Bithynia was the immediate occasion of the death of Hannibal. The universal practice of interviewing at Rome furnished a plausible opportunity for the assassination of Julius Casar; and, to come down to more modern times, it is beyond peradventure that the interviews of Sir Hudson Lowe hastened the death of the Great Napoleon. The truth is that history and tradition are packed with instances of the mischief wrought by this prying class, and that from the days when that luckless mari sage of a Menelaus went to Crete, leaving his Helen to the passionate assaults of Paris, down to our modern era, when the same thing happens every day and is chronicled in the newspapers, interviewing has existed as an art more or less fine, and probably will do so until the end of the chapter. There are, however, periods of action and reaction, of rise and decline, in this as in other arts, which are brought about by various accidental or providential circumstances. Thus, after the interview of Marsyas with Apollo, or that of the eager daygod with the lovely Acantha, we can readily understand how interviewing went out of fashion for a time among the Greeks. A later instance was that of poor Willis—who perhaps deserves to be styled the first great American interviewer-whose experience was almost as discouraging for disciples in the art. The memory of catastrophes like these dies out, however, in time: the beauties and joys of interviewing again loom up to dazzle the imagination, and an era comes, as among ourselves to-day, when the delightful old cus-tom blossoms like the rose.

The cardinal principle of interviewing is, of course, that no man has a right to his own time. He may have a right to his own coat. dinner, or horse, which take time to earn, but these are clearly very different things. It is plain that idle or imprudent curiosity, or a desire for self-aggrandizement at the expense of others, warrants any species of intrusion at all hours and places, and that only absurd fastidiousness will object to it. The ridiculous old custom of sending up cards-implying the right of accepting or declining wisit on the part of the recipient—is, of sourse, exploded by the triumph of this prin-There are other coterminous prinsiples-but this is the basic and immutable pne. Its sense and significance can be abundantly illustrated. None can dispute that it is of more consequence that public men should devote their hours to defining their position to half-drunken reporters, to the end of satisfying prurient inquisitiveness than that those hours should be devoted to the public service. Equally manifest is it -to compare great things with small—that authors and artists and their agents should consume without introduction the moments of the journalist who criticizes their work. Their own opinions of the latter are obviously of so much more consequence than those of a distinterested observer, and it is of so much greater moment for public information that the former views should be promulgated than the latter, that the delicacy and propriety of this custom cannot for an instant be questioned. These instances are fairly typical of a host of others. So long as morbid curiosity or short-sighted selfishness can be gratified in a face country it would be ungraceful as well as inconvenient to attempt opposition.

Besides, opposition brings its punishment.

It is true that the mud thrown by the interviewers brushes off easily when dry. But who likes to be pelted for all that? Moreover we should remember that although the interviewers collect much dirt, they occasionally gather in something bright and precious as well. They go about, indeed, like the suite of the first Russian Ambassador painted by Macaulay, who says they swept through the London ballrooms dropping pearls and lice. Let us take the good and the bad together, since it is not given to our generation to enjoy them apart; and, so long as omnipotent public opinion to erates the interviewers and their mediums, iet us have patience and endure.

LIBERTY ACCORDING TO THE GUIL-LOTINE.

From the N: Y. Tribune. One of the political phenomena of the time was the grand banquet in Paris to celebrate the anniversary of the execution of Louis XVI. Need we say that Guiseppe Mazzini wrote a letter to the assembled patriots of the guillotine, offering a tragic toast about Rome and Paris? Garibaldi, too, represented himself to these melodramatic liberals by the humane and decent sentiment:-"Let us drown in blood the putrid catafalque of the despotism of the priests." Rochefort must have sent his Marscillaise sentiment that the gallows and guillotine should be abolished except in the case of sovereigns. M. Louis Blanc has apparently received just censure for writing to the same meeting of blooddrinkers, though he redeems himself, we understand, by the faith that the dead return,

and that murder is bad policy.

Each of these men has been at some time a professed enemy of capital punishment. Each of them is a declared champion of the largest liberty. Each of them believes in some plan whereby the world's fortune can be distributed, so that the rich shall be poorer and the poor richer. Most of them

of Twenty St. persons presented attention of

be kind. All of them have had to deal with | has been less proscriptive of Northern men wrote their toasts to the deadly banquet in Paris, they helped to celebrate not only the death of one weak man who, when he went to the guillotine, was for once the noblest because the most Christian man in France, but the bloody outgush of torrent-like massacre of which this execution was the awful source. They celebrated not only the death of King Louis, but of his wife and family; not only of princes, but of the people—the vices of Mira-beau, the horrible audacity of Danton, the reptile cruelty of Marat, the fatal heartlessness of Robespierre-in short, all that makes intellectual men devils, and the Pandemonium of the Reign of Terror a favorite drama for a certain order of the French enthusiasts. They sat down to feast on horrors, and might have remembered that last night when the Girondists supped together. By straining a point they might have brought themselves round to celebrate the massacres of the coup d'etat; for murder is murder, whether done by king or

Fearful and wonderful, in some points of view, is the spirit which, after decades of unavailing bloodshed, rejoices in such an event as the first murder. Perhaps it is right for us, however, to accept the late politic convocation of French worms over the memory of sad King Louis as in the natural order of a peculiar train of events. It is natural, perhaps, that great self-absorbed, all-absorbing monsters of personality should have grown like tumors on a country which has witnessed the hideous looseness of morals and disrespect of all persons shown in the days of the guillotine. It is natural for the country which had Robespierre to be punished with Napoleon, and fer Napoleon to be stung with Rochefort. The worst commentary to be made on the perniciousness of the Empire seems to be that in this day of grace men calling themselves liberals assemble to feast over the name of a poor blundering kingwho, after all, was less blundering than the scores of his executioners who perished miserably by the very instrument they erected-whose offense against France was slight compared to the crime of its present ruler, who may soon die, but will not soon resign or be killed. After nineteen years of probation, has France not outgrown the Reign of Terrer? Has Napoleon only been an educator of sans culottes and king-killers? Has he been training up executioners only to have it asked who shall put them to death in

A new French caricature represents Napoleon speaking to a ballet-girl who wears the liberty cap. The new revolution in France must oppose the idea of imperialism with something better than libertinism. The excesses of the guillotine, the saturnalias of terror, were the fruits of libertinism, and not liberty, carried out into the extreme of horror. Frenchmen are as able as other men, but they cannot set right their disjointed society by new dislocations. They have terrible children among them, ready to do Traupmann's work for liberty's sake in an age when there are plenty of generous people who hardly understand that liberty can be robbed for and butchered for like other selfish prizes, and that intellectual men can be fascinated with great problems of revenge, and come to view conventional assassination as a necessity. M. Rochefort quotes Robespierre -and Danton and Mirabeau are the apostles of the young students who in Belgium echoed Proudhon's teaching in a cry of "Down with God!" to have it caught up in Spain by a mad Republican, Suner de Capdevilla. It is plain that the liberty of the guillotine counts out one important element in the direction of human affairs—the Almighty.

GENERAL AMNESTY. From the Richmond State Journal. The bill which passed Congress yesterday, to become a law, includes the names of many the first men of the State who have hitherto been in bitter hostility to the General Government. After having swallowed so huge a camel we cannot see the necessity of straining at gnats. Our own views are well known on this subject. We have been in favor of a general removal of disabilities from all the people of the South, although it would militate against both our personal and political interests. The only difficulty in our mind was to discover the simplest method of accomplishing the end. The Constitution requires personal application-and it is doubtful if there is any other way of getting over difficulties which environ the question of universal amnesty, than an amendment to the fourteenth amendment which shall strike out the disabling clause. Such an amendment would have to be adopted by threefourths of the votes, and the process would consequently be very slow. Personal application is too troublesome to be thought of, for we must recollect that it is not alone those who are disabled by the fourteenth amendment, but ninety-nine hundredths of the white inhabitants of the South, who are almost equally disabled by the test oath. A great many of those whose disabilities have been removed were men of the latter class. This very large class could be restored to all their forfeited rights and privileges by a simple law of Congress repealing the oath of office of 1862, popularly known as the test oath or ironclad. This oath, it seems to us, has accomplished all the good purposes that it was intended to accomplish, and has prevented all the evils that it was intended to provide against, and it might now be repealed without detriment to the public good. Unscrupulous men have not been deterred, either by conscience or public opinion, from subscribing to it, when their interests stood in the way; and it has, therefore, been of late years little more than a ban upon honest and conscientious people in the South, to keep them out of offices and employments under the provisional State and Federal Governments. Consequently, as it will only place the poor soldier of the Confederate Army, who held no office before the war, on the same footing with the leading politicians of Virginia who were restored to all their political rights yesterday, and give them an equal chance in the Federal effices, we say let the test oath be re-pealed, and the humbler class be thus placed upon the same footing with the old officeholders.

Let us see how the test oath operates: Mr. Raleigh T. Daniel was yesterday relieved of his political disabilities, which also relieves him from the Congressional test oath, which is required to be taken by all officers of the United States Government, whether in the North or the South, and all Senators and members of Congress, no matter where they were born or reside, and even though they may have been in the United States army during the war. Mr. Daniel is now fully rehabilitated, and can be elected to Congress next fall and take his seat in that body, or he can be elected or appointed to any other office in the State or United States; and yet there

exasperating phases of monarchical oppres-sion, and we dare not lightly judge them. Stuart, who cannot accept an office under the But when Messrs. Garivaldi and Mazzini, Federal Government, who cannot run against Mr. Daniel for Congress or the Senate simply because they would not be able to subscribe to the test oath. Therefore, as matters now stand, the very men whom Congress intended to punish are being fully pardoned, while those it intended to pardon are still undergoing punishment. The repeal of the test oath would open up the Federal offices to all who are not disqualified by the fourteenth amendment, and would furthermore render perjury unnecessary. It would be a favor granted to the real people of the South which they would fully recognize and appreciate, as it would at once open up to them all the avenues to preferment in the General Government, and so long as these are closed we cannot expect much of that old love for the flag to return. Were it in our power, we would at once restore every man, woman, and child in the South to every right that has been forfeited, and thus show that we had forgotten and forgiven the past, by our willingness to trust them in the future. If, therefore, the disabilities of the four-

teenth amendment cannot be removed by general law, why, then, at least, let the oath be repealed. That act will restore at least nine-tenths of our people to a position of equality in the Union. And then let the old office-holders, who are disabled by the Constitution, bide their time patiently, and await the pleasure of Congress. We make this appeal in behalf of the soldiers of the late Confederate army, who surrendered in good faith when the war closed, and who are anxious to take again to their hearts the flag of their fathers, but who feel that they are held in distrust by the country, so long as they are deprived of an equal participation in the Government.

The sound of Revel which by night pre

REVEL From the N. Y. World.

luded Waterloo bids fair to be repeated day and night in the Senate. The mud-colored Mississippi parson has been led to his seat in that august chamber, and his membership acknowledged by the united voices of his radical coadjutors. There is at last a "nigger in the national wood-pile," and no mistake, He did not come there because the citizens of the State which he assumes to represent wanted him. Capua would as soon have sent a Lestrygonian upon her embassies, or Achaia summoned a hairy Colchian amid her Amphyctions. Mississippi didn't want him, but he comes at the behest of those who, since the termination of the war, have imposed upon the prostrate South every species of tyranny and outrage. It would be inconsistent in them not to receive him with ceremonious honors, and we are not surprised that Sensor Wilson, whose sensibility of odors is not acute, should have played the part of gentleman usher and escorted him to his seat with a profusion of obese genuflexions. It is noteworthy that Senator Sumner, who does not share his colleague's olfactory apathy, did not fall upon the brunette bosom of the murky Mississippian and consecrate him with a baptism of tears. He could not have made any use of his emotional brine which would have been more consistent with his antecedents and principles. But he withheld that desirable aspersion, and the ger" took his seat without moistening. He was slapped on the back with reckless cordiality by Nye and other muscular radicals. and his hand was vigorously shaken by at least a quorum. It remains now to see what he will do beyond making his immediate neighbors uncomfortable. According to the radical theory his advent in the Senate ought to usher in a new era. They have promised all manner of millennial beatitudes as the consequence of letting the nigger vote and be voted for. Well, he votes. He generally votes the radical ticket, but and only lacks the signature of the President has been known in periods of excitement to deposit turnpike tickets, champagne labels and mottoes. His representative sits in the highest deliberative body in the nation, and we await with interest the salutary results which the redicals have promised us. What will he do? Will he purge the legislature of those who sell cadetships for a price, and those who interpose pettifogging vindications of that infamy from their place in Congress? He ought to do this. He carries a carpet-bag himself, and he ought to exact punctilious behavior from his white brethren who are similarly handicapped. Perhaps he will give us a new scheme of finance which will roll the stone from the grave of our national industry. A necessary preliminary to this would be to teach Boutwell some of the rudiments of arithmetic and political economy. This, we take it, he would find even less easy than to instruct Robeson as to the difference between the jibboom and the lee scuppers. or between the anchor and the admiral. latter has been tried with considerable assiduity, but with no other result than to break the heart of the instructor and hopelessly cloud the nautical perceptions of the Secretary. So we can have but little hopes of the efficacy of the former. He may, per-haps, chasten the asperity of Hoar and read him dulcet lessons of courtesy, and may set an example of good manners to Butler, and of temperance to Chandler, and of evangelical piety to Nye. He may set his face like a dark-colored flint against the removal of the capital, and may in sundry and divers ways vindicate the wisdom which has summoned him from the canebrake and the cotton-field to the seat of the lawgiver. If he should happen to fail to accomplish all these promised results. there is but one thing left for us. Having in vain summoned the nigger to our rescue, and haply found him an obetacle and a bore, we shall have to invoke the aid of the women. It would be an august spectacle to see Wilson, with backward step and slow, ushering Susan B. Anthony to her rocking-chair in the middle aisle, while Sumner meekly bore her train, and Nye followed up the rear with a plate of buttered buns and a teapot. Susan would, of course, need a little sustenance to help her through her maiden harangue, and neither her gender nor her principles would permit her to fall back upon the chewing quid or the bracing cocktail. If she should likewise turn out a failure, and the truth dawn upon us at last that neither coffee-colored preachers nor matrons of alabaster and rose are to bring about our political salvation, it will be admitted that a great deal of wind has

> THE POSTAL TELEGRAPH BILL-THE ARGUMENT OF MR. ORTON.

been wasted.

the Commission of the Commissi

From the N. Y. Herald. Mr. Orton, President of the Western Union Telegraph monopoly, continued his speech in epposition to the Postal Telegraph bill before the Senate Committee on Post Offices on Saturday. He claimed that it was unjust to reduce the rates of telegraphy in this country to the basis of rates where the wires are under governmental control in Europe, and held that as the telegraph was "essential" only to the few here, legislation could be better directed ferce humanity, who would be cruel only to are 100,000 men in Virginia, any one of whom to lowering the prices of food and clothing for No. 304 CHESNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

the many. As to European Governments assuming control of the wires, he claimed that the system of government in Enrope gave privileges to the people rather to keep them quiet and in subjection than to extend any benefit to them; and as ours is not a paternal government we should leave it to the people not only to govern themselves, but to promote in their own way everything requisite for social intercourse or business interests. As to the proposed consolidation of competing lines, he held it to be the true policy of Congress to favor competition and thereby encourage cheap rates, rather than to control all the wires itself by the proposed postal system.

It is merely begging the question to say

that reducing the price of food and clothing for the many should be the object of Congressional legislation rather than reducing the taxes of the telegraphy for the few. Congress can very easily attend to both matters without rushing its business. The one is a question merely of tariff, and is always affected by prices in Europe and the duties imposed on imports, in order either to protect our own manufacturers or to obtain a revenue for the Government. But the rates of internal telegraphing are not affected by imports, and are not at present a source of much Government revenue. In the event of Government taking control of the wires, however, they will become a source of revenue at such reduced rates as will make them accessible, as they are already essential, to the many. As to Mr. Orton's idea that we should leave the people to promote their own social and business intercourse, it is a true and good one, but it is his own monopoly which prevents their carrying out the idea. Our Government is a Government of the people, and while they could promote their own business and social intercourse through the Government telegraph, they are debarred from doing so through his monopoly. The imperial autocrat of France, to whom Mr. Orton refers as extending only the minor privileges of cheap telegraphy to the people, while he is held upon his throne by the bayonets of his soldiery, is prototyped here not by our Government, but by such monopolies as the Western Union, except that the latter does not extend even such a privilege to the people. But Napoleon finds this very privilege of cheap telegraphy the deadliest weapon against his soldiers' bayonets, and the Western Union seem to think it equally deadly against their monopoly. As to the fostering of consolidation by the purchase of the wires for the 1180 of the Government, Mr. Orton, as President of the Western Union Company, can certainly enter no just protest. He cannot seriously argue against it on the grounds of monopoly in the same breath in which he says that his company would be able to get control even of the governmental organization proposed in one of the postal telegraph bills. His company has been regularly in the habit of buying up smaller lines and weaker companies, and now own three-fourths or more of all the lines. They will admit of no healthful competition. A monopoly of telegraphing by the Government would be a people's monopoly, if one at all, like the present postal system, cheap and efficient, and not what it is under the Western Union, essential to the few and inaccessible to the people at large.

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Freight HANDLED BUT ONCE, and taken at LOWER RATES THAN ANY OTHER LINE.

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COMPANY'S MAIL STEAMSHIPS
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THE SCREW STEAMERS OF THE NORTH
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Price of Pussage from New York to Bremen, London, Havre, and Southampton:—
First Cabin, \$120; Second Cabin, \$72; Stoerage, \$30, Gold.
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These vessels take Freight to London and Hull, for which through hills of lading are signed.
An experienced surgeon is attached to each vessel.
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Through tickets to be had of all Charleston and Savannah Steamship Line Agencies in New York.

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FOR CHARLESTON,
SOUTH CAROLINA,
THE SOUTH, SOUTHWEST,
AND FLORIDA PORTS. PROMETHEUS,

will leave Pier 17, below Spruce street, On THURSDAY, March 3, at 6 A. M. On THURSDAY, March 3, at 6 a. a.

Comfortable accommodations for Passengers.

Through Passage Tickets and Bills of Lading issued in connection with the South Carolina Railroad to all points South and Southwest, and with steamers to Florida ports.

Insurance by this Line ONE HALF PER CENT.

Goods forwarded free of commission.

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285

NEW EXPRESS LINE TO Alexandria, Georgetown, and Washington, D. C., via Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, with connections at Alexandria from the most direct route for Lynchburg, Bristol, Knoxville, Nashville, Dalton, and the Southwest. Steamers leave regularly every Saturday at noon from the first wharf above Market street. Freight received dally.

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HYDE & TYLEE, Agents, at Georgetown; M.

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MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY,
Regular Mail Steamers saling on the Regular Mail Brand Merker Mark Merkimaok, Captain Wier.

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These splendid steamers sail on schedule time, and call at St. Thomas, Para, Pernambuce, Bahia, and Rio de Janeiro, going and returning.

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THE CROMWELL LINE.
Steamships of this Line will leave Pier
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Freight taken for St. Louis, Mobile, and Galveston at through rates. Cabin passage, \$50.
For passage (first and second class) or freight apply to H. B. OROMWELL & UO., No. 86 WEST Street.

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ATLANTIC MAIL STRAMSHIP CO.,
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MORO CASTLE, Captain R. Adam.
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For freight or passage apply to LER, Jr., President,
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NOTICE.—FOR NEW YORK, VIA
Delaware and Raritan Canal, SWIFTSURB
TRANSPORTATION COMPANY.—DESPATCH AND SWIFTSURE LINE.
The business of these lines will be resumed on and after
the 6th of March. For freights, which will be taken on
accommodating terms, apply to
W. M. BAIRD & CO.,
834